

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /112 W

-----103924 151345Z /64

R 151057Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2051

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO RIYADH

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3634

E.O. 11662: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, ET, SO

SUBJECT: ERITREAN QUESTION

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POL COUN ON MAY 14, MFA DIRECTOR FOR ASIA AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS AHMAD SIRAJ SAID THAT SAG EXPECTED ETHIOPIAN MASSIVE ASSAULT ON ERITREA WOULD PROBABLY COME DURING RAINY SEASON, WHICH BEGINS NEXT MONTH. WHEN RAINS BEGIN, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GET FRESH SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT INTO ERITREA FROM SUDAN. SIRAJ INQUIRED WHAT U.S. REACTION WOULD BE TO PROPOSAL TO BRING QUESTION OF ERITREA TO UNITED NATIONS WHEN MASSIVE ATTACK BEGINS. QUESTION WOULD BE INTRODUCED ON GROUNDS
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THAT UN STILL HAS RESPONSIBLIITY TOWARD ERITREA UNDER 1951 RESOLUTION WHICH SET UP ERITREAN STATE AND ALLOWED FOR ITS FEDERATION WITH ETHIOPIA. RESOLUTION WOULD BE DRAFTED TO PUT UN TROOPS IN ERITREA TO PROTECT STATE FROM ATTACK BY ITS ETHIOPIAN PARTNER IN FEDERATION. SIRAJ HOPED TO HAVE AFRICAN STATE, SUCH AS SUDAN, BRING MATTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL. IN ASNWER TO QUESTION WHETHER

SAG HAD CONSULTED AFRICAN AND OTHER ARAB STATES ON POSSIBLE UN ACTION, SIRAJ SAID SAG HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED IT WIDELY BUT WAS INTENSELY STUDYING MATTER INTERNALLY. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT IF SUDAN TOOK THE LEAD, MANY AFRICAN STATES WOULD SUPPORT THE MOVE. TOGO SOUNDED INTERESTED. HE ASKED HOW USG WOULD REACT TO THIS APPROACH.

2. POL COUN SAID HE WOULD TAKE PRELIMINARY SOUNDING AND LET HIM KNOW.
WILEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, ERITREA, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA03634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC ALTERED GS
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-0229
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780559/aaaabyaa.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 468b1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2691556
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERITREAN QUESTION
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, ET, SO, SA, UN, (SIRAJ, AHMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/468b1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014